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Cassis telecom amendment helps small businesses

LANSING - State Sen. Nancy Cassis today sponsored an amendment to the revised state telecommunications act that requires phone companies to offer basic 'no frills' single line service to all residential and business customers.

"This is designed to help very small businesses operating on shoestrings that don't need or can't afford multiple lines," said Cassis, R-Novi. "Start-ups, 'mom and pop' businesses like Main Street ice cream shops, florists and local independent bookstores are the kind of stores that will benefit. They are also companies that will help drive Michigan's economic recovery. They need all the help they can get."

The Cassis amendment to Senate Bill 754 extends the same basic options for local residents to local businesses. Cassis noted that small family-owned establishments simply don't require the high-volume phone services of large companies and should not be forced to purchase what they don't need.

"Small businesses are one of the key engines for growing our economy," Cassis said. "If they are forced into larger-scale phone contracts that exceed their needs and budgets, we are putting them at risk. This amendment wisely establishes a common baseline level of service that allows for businesses to grow at their own individual pace."

The measure now goes before the House.

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